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WESTERN RESERVE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CLEVELAND, O.

CENTENNIAL

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

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BY GEN. L. V. BIERCE.

HOLDEN, as these Centennial Celebrations are to-day, throughout Ohio, under the auspices of the several County Agricultural Societies, and on the advice and recommendation of the State Board of Agriculture, it might seem at first thought, that they were intended as a kind of extra Agricultural Fair. Indeed, a western editor, in announcing the fact that I was to address you, said I was to speak on the agricultural improvements of Portage county during the last one hundred years.

I do not so understand the object of these meetings. To do so would be to go back in the history of your Agricultural improvements thirty-two years before Portage county had a political existence; twenty-six years before the State of Ohio had an existence; and nine years before the United States owned a foot of land north-west of the Ohio river.

One hundred years takes us back to a time when all north-west of the Ohio river was a vast region, known only as the North-Western Territory, extending from the Ohio to the Pacific Ocean—to a time when the beautiful fields that surround us were a wilderness, untrod by civilized man—when the only cattle were the wild beasts of the forest, and the only agricultural products were a little Indian corn, and pappoose babies,—and the only mechanical arts were the construction of the canoe, the bow and arrow.

It would be a pleasant theme on which to dwell,—to contrast civilized life with savage barbarism—the railroad with the war-path; the church with the wigwam. But, as the addresses this day delivered are to be preserved for the benefit of the future Historian of Ohio, fancy should give way to sober fact, and imaginary scenes and sketches be left for the novelist.

The history of Portage County, as a county, dates back only to 1808, but the territory, of which it is a part, was acquired by the U. S., from the Indians, by the Treaty of Fort McIntosh, near what is now Beaver in Pa., in 1785, when the history of "the North-Western Territory" commences—but the history of the Western Reserve goes back to 1662. By the Treaty of 1785, the U. S. acquired all the territory north-west of the Ohio river, and east of the Cuyahoga river, Portage Path, and Tuscarawas.

By this purchase from the Indians, the U. S. claimed to own the whole territory—but the State of Connecticut had a charter, granted by Charles II, of England, in 1662, conveying to that State, when a colony, the territory bounded by the south line of Massachusetts, on the north, to Long Island Sound, on the south, and from the Narraganset river on the east, to the Pacific Ocean on the west. The boundaries included not only what is now called Connecticut, but a portion of New York, New Jersey, nearly one-half of Pennsylvania, the northern part of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, parts of Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Oregon and Califoruia. A pretty extensive tract to be conveyed in one deed. How King Charles became the owner of it is unknown. He never purchased it, and was never in possession of it. The Indians, for unknown ages, had been the owners and occupyers of the country, and, of right, had the title—but king Charles assumed that he had the right to it, and granted a charter of it to Connecticut. Subsequently he granted a charter to his brother, the Duke of York, for what is now the state of New York, and one to William Penn, for what is now Pennsylvania. Both of these charters cut entirely across the territory previously granted to Connecticut, and a long controversy followed between Connecticut and the Duke of York, and William Penn, which was continued till 1664, when the king appointed commissioners to settle the controversy. These commissioners decided that Connecticut had no right to the territory embraced in the Patent or Charter of the Duke of York, To this decision Connecticut was compelled to submit. She however, insisted on her claim west of New York, including northern Pennsylvania. In 1781 Pennsylvania and Connecticut appointed commissioners to settle the dispute, and an Act of Congress was passed, granting to these commissioners full power to act, and make a

inal settlement. The commissioners met at Trenton, New Jersey in 1782, and on a full hearing decided that Connecticut had no right to the territory in dispute, but that it belonged to Pennsylvania. Compelled to relinquish her claim on New York and Pennsylvania, Connecticut adhered to her claim west of Pennsylvania. This question of the title of Connecticut had been a source of irritation so long that Congress determined to settle it—and Connecticut was equally anxious to close the controversy. To avoid all further trouble, in 1786, she, by her Representatives in Congress, proposed to cede all her lands west of Pennsylvania, to the U. S., excepting a RESERVE of 120 miles west of Pennsylvania, and north of latitude 41°. This proposition was accepted, and the long controversy settled. This RESERVE of 120 miles west of the western line of Pennsylvania, sometimes called simply "the Reserve," sometimes "the Western Reserve," and sometimes "the Connecticut Western Reserve," includes Portage county—which you may well be proud to call your home.

It is historic ground, for which Nations and States have contended for centuries. Spain claimed the vast territory of which Portage county is a part, by virtue of the discovery of the extreme south end of the continent, now called Florida, by Ponce de Leon, in 1512, and a gift or confirmation of her claim of the whole continent by the Pope. The Pope assumed that God owned it, and that he was the Regent or Vice-Gerent of God, and had a right to dispose of it. Protestant England, and even Catholic France would not recognize the authority of the Pope to dispose of this territory, unless he could show a legal Power of Attorney from God himself. England and France both opposed the Spanish claim, and determined to resist it.

But futile as was the claim of Spain, those of England and France were no better. The only claim that France could make was based on the fact that Marquette, and Hennepin and other French Catholic Missionaries, from Quebec, went up through the lakes and rivers and from the lakes overland, to the Mississippi river, preaching to the Indians and planting the cross. On this feeble claim the French based their ownership of all North America, and commenced building a chain of Forts from Quebec to the north-west end of lake Michigan—thence across to the Mississippi, and down that river. They also built them in the interior: showing a determination to enforce their claim, if necessary by a resort to arms. Among their forts was one on the Cuyahoga river in what is now Northampton, in this Co. before its division, The English claim was based on the fact that in 1497 the Cabots, father and son, sailed along the coast, and discovered Newfoundland—though there is no evidence that they, or any other Englishmen landed on the coast for twenty years thereafter.

France and England though deadly opposed to each other, were united in their opposition to the claim of Spain, and by their advances south, and finally by a settlement formed by Sir Walter Raliegh, in 1582, in North Carolina, backed as he was, by the power of England, Spain was compelled to abandon her claim to all of the territory except Florida, which she was allowed to hold by virtue of its discovery by Ponce de Leon.

England and France now became the proprietors of this valued prize, and it soon became evident that both nations were preparing to test their exclusive claim by an arbitration of arms. The Indians, who were real owners were not consulted in the matter. In 1754 the long threatened contest began, and continued till 1760, when France was completely defeated, and by the Treaty of Paris, in 1763 she transferred her title to America to England, and England, by the Treaty of 1783, at the close of the Revolutionary War, surrendered her title, south of Canada, to the United States.

By the Treaty of Fort McIntosh, in 1785, the Indians ceded all the territory N. W. of the Ohio river and east of the Cuyahoga, Portage Path and Tuscrawas river to the United States, by which they acquired a complete, perfect, equitable, as well as legal title—the Spanish, French, English and Indian claims being all merged in the United States title.

By the compromise between the U. S. and Connecticut, in 1786, consummated by the deed of the President of the U. S., on the 30th of May, 1800, the U. S. conveyed the title to this *Reserve* of 120 miles W. of Pennsylvania to the State of Connecticut, which on the 5th of September, 1795, gave a deed of it to the Connecticut Land Co., for the consideration of $1,200,000—and that company, on the same day executed a deed to John Morgan, Jonathan Brace, and John Caldwell of the Reserve, to hold, as Trustees, for the company, and from them is derived all the land Titles on the Reserve.

This claim of Connecticut, under her charter of 1662, also came near involving the colonies of Connecticut and New York in a war, and was the cause of the first successful resistance of the colonies to British tyrrany. Two years after granting the charter to Connecticut, the king of England granted to his brother, the Duke of York, a charter of what is now New York, cutting entirely across the territory conveyed to Connecticut by her charter. That colony would not acknowledge the validity of the charter of the Duke of York, which made the Connecticut river the western boundary of their colony, and to test it built a fort at Saybrook, on the west side of the river, and of course on territory claimed by the Duke of York. The Duke, backed by his brother the King, determined to enforce his claim, and

for tbat purpose ordered Major Andross, Governor of New York, to proceed to Saybrook with a military force and drive off the intruding Yankees.

On the eleventh of July, 1675, just one hundred years before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, Gov. Andross, with several armed sloops, cast anchor in front of the little Fort, and hoisting the British flag demanded its surrender. Captain Bull, in command of the Fort hoisted the British flag and refused to surrender. A parley was agreed on and Gov. Andross and staff landed, and met Capt. Bull, and producing the charter of the Duke of York, commanded that it be read. Capt. Bull. with as much decision, forbid its being read. Gov. Andross enquired: "What is your name sir?" "Bull," said the captain. "Bull," said the Governor, "well you ought to have tips on your horns."

Finding he could not effect his object, the Governor weighed anchor, hoisted sail, and returned to New York. This Capt. Bull the hero of Fort Saybrook, and the first successful resistant of British tyrrany, just one hundred years before the commencement of the Revolutionary war, was the grandfather of Thomas Bull of Hartford, Conn., one of the original members of the Conn. Land company, from whom many, in Portage county, especially in the eastern and southern parts, derive their land titles—generally known as "the Bull tracts."

From this feat of Capt. Bull originated the curt, slang expression "*Bully*," for a great, daring or noble act.

But there were other conflicting claims to the vast territory of which Portage county forms a part.

New York claimed to own the Reserve as far west as the Cuyahoga river—as that river was the western boundary of the Iroquois or Six Nations of Indians, that New York had taken under her control. Virginia claimed the whole North-Western Territory on two grounds. First by derivation of title from "The London Land Co." in which that company had conveyed to Virginia, in 1619, all the territory extending along the coast for 200 miles north and south from Old Point Comfort, "and up into the land throughout from sea to sea, west and north-west." The difficulty with this claim was that "The London company" was dissolved and its charter declared forfeit on a writ of *quo warranto* in 1624, and the grant was resumed by the King.

Secondly, Virginia claimed that if her title was not good in consequence of the dissolution of the company from whom she derived it, she owned it *by right of conquest*. Notwithstanding the Treaty of 1783, the English government, in open violation of the treaty, maintained garrisons at Detroit, Vincennes, Kaskaskia, and other places. From these British posts the Indians were supplied with arms and ammunition, and encouraged to war on the defenceless American settlements. The frontfer of Virginia being extensive was particular-

ly exposed to Indian excursions. In 1788 she claiming to be a sovereign independent state. raised a body of troops to capture and destroy these British forts. The troops, under the command of Col. George Rogers Clarke, captured the British posts at Kaskaskia, and Vincennes, together with Col. Hamilton, the British Governor. By virtue of this conquest Virginia claimed the conquered country, and erected it into a *county of Virginia*, by the name of Illinois.

The claim of Massachusetts was based on a charter granted by the King of England at a period when the territory was claimed and occupied by France—also on a charter similar to that of Connecticut, but of a date thirty years later. Conneticut based her claim on her charter of 1662.

The titles of Spain, France and England were extinguished, the Indian title purchased, but these conflicting claims among the States. for a long time darkened the prospect of the American Union. Under these circumstances congress made a strong appeal to the several states which asserted claims over the territory, to avert the danger that threatened the common cause, by liberal cessions for the common benefit. New York was the first to listen to the appeal, and early in 1780 she relinquished her claim. Virginia followed in 1784 by a cession of her claim, excepting a Reserve of a tract of land between the Scioto and Little Miami rivers, called "The Virginia Military Tract," which she reserved as bounty land for her soldiers. Massachusetts next followed the lead of Virginia; and in April 1785 ceded to the United States all of her claim—and in September 1786 Connecticut ceded her political jurisdiction over the whole of her claim, and the fee of the land to all except "The Reserve," of 120 miles west of Pennsylvania. Thus, by an appeal to the patriotism of the people were these conflicting charters, and opposing claims to soil, and political jurisdiction amicably adjusted. Union and harmony restored—and the confederacy perfected.

These conflicting claims had to be reconciled or there would have been no Union of the States. They had to be reconciled, or New York would have the Cuyahoga river as her western boundary. They had to be reconciled, or Virginia would have held the whole north-western territory, and consigned it to slavery. They had to be reconciled, or Massachusetts would have owned the Western Reserve. They had to be reconciled, or the little State of Connecticut would have owned to the Pacific Ocean, or civil war would have followed. All these issues were pending on the decision of the States in respect to their claims. A more momentous question was never submited to any people, but, thank God, the patriotism of the people was equal to the emergency, and these vexed questions, that had been a source of irritation, and strife for more than a hundred years were honorably, patriotically, and voluntarily adjusted by an appeal to the people.

By these various cessions, ending with that of Connecticut, in

1786, all conflicting claims were adjusted, and the United States became sole owner of this vast region. To recapitulate: Spain was compelled, by France and England to surrender all her claim except to Florida. By the Treaty of Paris, in 1763, France was compelled to cede all her claim to England. By the Treaty of 1783, at the close of the Revolutionary war, England was compelled to surrender her claim to the United States. The United States, by the compromise with Connecticut in 1786, ceded to Connecticut the fee in the soil of 120 miles west of Pennsylvania, and north of lat. 41°. On the 5th of September 1795, Connecticut deeded it to the Connecticut Land Co., who, on the same day deeded it to John Morgan, Jonathan Brace, and John Caldwell, in trust, to sell for the company. And it is a remarkable fact that every one of these Trustees lived till every acre was sold. Previous to this sale 500,000 acres, off the west end of the Reserve, were in 1792, granted by Connecticut to the inhabitants of New London, Fairfield and Norwalk in that State, for losses by the burning of those towns by the British in the Revolutionary war. From this circumstance they are called "Fire Lands." The balance, about 3,000,000 acres was sold to the Land company for $1,200,000, being about forty cents an acre. The Land company having secured the title resolved to survey the Reserve into Townships of five miles square, and for that purpose, in 1796, organized an exploring expedition of forty-five men, two women and one child. Of this number was your late fellow citizen Amzi Atwator, of Mantua, who died on the 22d of June, 1851, at the age of 75 years, being the last survivor, but one of that company.

The party met at Canandaigua, in the state of New York, June 14, 1796. They all arrived at what is now called Coneaut, on the 4th of July, 1796, just eighty years ago, where they celebrated our Independence by firing guns and drinking toasts in whisky punch. This was the first celebration of the day on the Reserve.

They built a warehouse on the beach, at Coneaut, in which to store their provisions—fixed the south-east corner of the Reserve, and from there run twenty miles west on the south line of the Reserve—at every five miles running a line (called then a meridian, now a range) to the Lake, They also surveyed, and laid out the city of Cleveland, and built a cabin at the foot of what is now called Union Lane.

On the 18th of October, 1796 the party left; leaving "Stow castle," on the beach at Coneaught, and the cabin, at the foot of Union Lane, the only relics of civilization.

Soon after the exploring party left, Judge Kingsbury, from the state of New York, with his wife, arrived at Coneaught, where he located in "Stow castle," without a white person within many miles. In the same fall necessary business compelled him to return to his former home in New York. Expecting to be gone but a short time, he provided what provisions he thought were necessary for his wife

during his absence, and left her alone in the wilderness. While in New York he was taken with a severe fit of sickness, which confined him till winter. There was not a Post Office nor mail on the Reserve, by which he could correspond with his wife, and she was left in gloomy uncertainty as to his fate, or reason for not returning. Her provisions gave out, and starvation stared her in the face. As soon as he was able he started for his wilderness home. At Buffalo he hired an Indian for a guide, and at Erie—anticipating the wants of his wife, he purchased some flour. In crossing Elk creek on the ice hfs horse broke through, and was so much disabled that he was compelled to leave him. He then took the flour on his back, and started with gloomy forbodings. On his arrival at his home he found his wife stretched on a cot, pale and emaciated with hunger. Near her lay an infant, born in his absence, which had expired for the want of that nourishment which the mother was too exhausted to furnish, and too feeble to bury or remove it. Such was the fate of the first white child born on the Reserve—being the first birth and first death.

In 1787 the Connecticut Land company organized a second exploring party, which met at Schenectady in the state of New York in April of that year. They arrived at Coneaught on the 25th of May, Some of the surveyors were sent into the woods from Coneaught. and the rest were ordered to Cleveland. Judge Atwater. as he was subsequently called. with the cattle and horses went by land. In swimming the horses over Grand river near its mouth, David Eldridge was drowned. The body was soon after recovered but too late so restore animation. The boats soon after arrived and took the body to Cleveland, where it was buried, being the first white person buried in that place.

The great object of the Second expedition was to finish the meridian or Range lines, commenced by the first expedition—the traverse of the Cuyahoga river, Portage Path, and Tuscarawas, as these were the boundary between the purchase made of the Iriquois, at Ft, McIntosh and the Western Indians. This line was run by Moses Warren, whose field notes were, a few years ago, in possession of Gen. Sam'l. D. Harris, your former County Surveyor and Auditor.

On the 5th of July, 1797, Richard M. Stoddrrd, one of the surveyors was ordered to complete the 6th meridian, or range. Stoddard being lame Atwater took his compass and run the line for ten miles when Stoddard ovortook him and took the line and finished it. Atwater, with one assistant, then left thaa line,and met TheodoreShephard, the Physician of the expedition, at the north-east corner of Palmyra. To make myself understood I am compelled to use modern names for the Townships,—at that time they were known by the number, and range of the township. Thus, if I was to speak of township 3, in the 8th range, few, perhaps would think I was speaking of Ravenna—but that was the name by which it was known, it

being the eighth township west of the Pennsylvania line, and the third township north of the southern line of the Reserve.

On arriving at the north-east corner of Palmyra Moses Bicknell an assisstant, who accompanied Atwater, was taken by a violent fever. Atwater took the compass and run the line between Braceville and Windham, where Bicknell became too sick to ride on a horse. Here was real trouble. At a great distance from any comfortable place for the sick—without medicine, and ignorant of its use if they had any; no guide but their compass or township lines marked on the trees. To get him to Cleveland was most desirable, if possible. Necessity was the mother of invention. They took two poles, and fastened them together with bark, so as to go by the sides of two horses, like the thills of a wagon—one horse following the other, so far apart as to admit a man to lie lengthwise between them. With barks and blankets they made his bed as comfortable as possible, and by twisted bark ropes lashed it to the pack saddles.

Atwater left Shepherd, with one assistant, to run the remainder of the line, as best he could, and started with the sick man for Cleveland. He went south to the corner of Palmyra, then west on the third parallel. The next morning he sent a man ahead to their camp on theCuyahoga to have a boat ready to take the sick man down the river—on the old Indian trail from Ft. McIntosh to Sandusky, he met his messenger with the sad intelligence that the camp was broken up and the boats gone. Atwater then directed him to go to Cleveland and have a boat come up, and meet him at the south line of Independence, in Cuyahoga county. Atwater proceeded north, on the west line of Stow to the north line of Summit county, and then west to the place appointed for meeting the boat. In this litter they had conveyed Bicknell five days, and a distance of fifty miles. He had a high fever all the time and had his reason but a small part of it. They arrived at the river early in the forenoon of July 25th, and Bicknell died in about two hours thereafter. Tinker the principal boatman, with a boat arrived a little afternoon. Atwater was anxious to take the body to Cleveland, but the boatmen, from a superstitious notiou that it boded bad luck to carry a dead body on the boat, refused, and he was buried near the river on the south line of Independence.

I have given this case at considerable length, to show the hardships and privations of those who, by their toil and suffering prepared this region for our home. It is a singular fact that in the first exploring expedition of 1796, there was very littla sickness, and not

a death—while in the second expedition, of 1797, there was an immense amount of sickness and seven deaths.

This year, 1797, was remarkable for two celebrations of our Independence—one at Randolph in this county, the other at Burton, Geauga couney,

On the first of July a party was sent to run, and mark the parallel east and west, between the first and second tier of townships north of the south line of the Reserve. This line, of course, run between Randolph and Rootstown. The party arrived on thenorth line of Randolph on the night of the third of July, where they found a fine spring of water. The party having plenty of whisky, and the spring furnishing plenty of water, they resolved not to work on the next day, but remain at the spring and celebrate our Independence. In the company was an Irishman, who loved Independence and whisky. He got so full of Independence and whisky, during the day that he died in the night. Having no tools with which to construct a coffin or dig a grave, on the following day they sharpened sticks with which they made a hole large enough to contain his body, in which they deposited him uncoffined. Fifty-two years afterwards. Elias Shriver, who owned the farm, on digging a cellar near the spring dug up the bones of this man who died of patriotism. Judging from their work the rest of the company were nearly as patriotfc as Patrick—for on starting their line they run north of west, taking from the northern townships and adding on to the southern, until they got to about the middle of Portage township, in Summit county, when they found they were several rods too far north. Instead of going back, and correcting their line, they here made a square offset down to the true line. This offset appears on the map, and is unaccountable without this explanation.

On the same day with the celebration of "*the Fourth*" in Randolph it was also celebrated in Burton, Geauga county. In 1796 Judge Young, from whom Youngstown in Mahoning county takes its name purchased the land where that city is located, and went on with his surveyors, to survey, and mark it out. About the first of July, James Hillman of Northampton, Pa., who had been an Indian trader, among the Western Indians and French, from 1786, on returning from one of his excursions, on passing down the Mahoning river (in Indian, Mauming, meaning a road to market,) in his canoe, discovered a smoke on the bank of the stream, and, on going to it he found Judge Young and his surveyors. Judge Young induced Hillman to abandon his roving life, and settle on his land, which he

did, and built the first house in what is now the city of Youngstown. This town of one house and two men was so important an event that "the Connecticut Land company" resolved to survey, and mark a road from the mouth of Grand river to Youngstown. For this purpose they employed Turhard Kirtland, then of Connecticut, but afterwards botter known in Ohio as Judge Kirtland of Poland, Mahoning co,, to survey and mark the road. Kirtland raised a company of assistants who met near the mouth of Grand river, at a place afterwards called "Skinner's Landing," and commenced their work. On the third of July they got to Burtou. As the company had a plenty of whisky, and Burton could furnish plenty of water, they resolved that they would not work on the next day, but celebrate our Independence.

At that time there was not a Post Office or mail on the Reserve. The nearest Post Office was at Pittsburgh, to which they sent, and from which they received their letters. For this purpose one of the company by the name of Adkins, was appointed mail carrier. In one of his trips to Pittsburgh he met a friend who had just returned from Philadelphia, bringing four lemons, which he gave to Adkins. With these it was resolved to celebrate with Lemon Punch. For a punch bowl they had to use a tin milk pan. In the company was one man who left home and joined the company, in consequence of an incompatability of temper between him and his wife—in other words they fought like cats and dogs, and she whipped him. On this account he left her, and joined the Kirtland party. On getting the punch well mixed Kirtland raised the milk pan to his lips and gave as a toast, "our wives and sweethearts at home," and taking a swig passed it to the next, who repeating the toast, took a suck and passed it on, till it came to the man with an incompatible temper, who repeated the toast with an amendment. He gave, "Our sweethearts at home—the Devil take the wives." This is noteworthy as it was one of the second celebrations of our Independence and the first time that lemon punch, or a lemon, was ever seen on the Reserve.

The year 1797 was remarkable for the first wedding, and the first christening of a baby on the Reserve. Col. Alexander Harper, and others, arrived at Harpersfield, Ashtabula county, from Delaware county, N. Y. In the company was a fine young widow, by the name of Mingus. There lived, at the time, at Newburgh, Cuyahoga county, a bachelor by the name of James Hamilton, who found it was not good for man to live alone, and hearing of the charms of widow

Mingus, resolved to make her mistress of his cabin. He accordingly took two horses, and riding one, led the other through the woods to the abode of the widow. He found her no less willing to exchange her widowhood than he waa to exchange his bachelorhood, for married life. But here was a pinch—there were no magistrates on the Reserve, nor a preacher to marry them. But where there is a will there is generally found a way. There was then living on the lake shore, about five miles west of Grand river, a man by the name of Moses Park, who had been a Baptist preacher, but getting a little loose on the handle, had abjured not only his profession but his religious faith. As he had been a preacher they declared it "a case of emergency," and that he would answer. Hamilton put the widow's feather bed on one horse, for a side-saddle, on which she rode, and he mounted the other horse, and they started through the woods in search of the quandom preacher. On arriving at his cabin and informing him of their business, he objected, as he was not a preacher—but on their urging the necessity of the case—that there was no preacher, nor Justice on the Reserve, he consented to assume the sacredotal functions, and in due form pronounced them husband and wife. They mounted their horses and proceeded to their cabin home in Newburgh. The decendants of widow Mingus and Hamilton are among the best citizens of that place—and physically, mentally and morally will compare favorably with the descendants of those married in the most orthodox style.

In 1797 David Abbott, a lawyer from Worcester Co., Massachusetts arrived on the Reserve and located on the Chagrin river, where Willoughby now is. He was on one bank and an Indian town on the other. The following year his wife preseuted him with a beautiful little daughter. She must be christened, but here was the trouble—there was not a preacher on the Reserve to perform the import- and business. This child was not only lovely in the eyes of its parents, but an old Indian chief, by the name of Waubemong almost adored her. He would take her to his camp, on the opposite bank of the river, and decorate her in all the splendor of Indian taste. He asked of Mrs. Abbott the privilege of christening her in the Indian manner, to which Mrs. Abbott consented. On the day set for the ceremony Waubemung appeared in full dress—the eagle feathers in his cap indicating his rank as chief, and after much religious ceremony he received the babe in his arms, and with upturned face

he invoked the blessings of the Good Spirit on it as he pronounced its name, in Indian, signifying Forest Flower. Her parents afterwards had the bad taste to change her name from Forest Flower to Mary O., by which name she was married, on arriving at womanhood, to Frank D. Parish of Sandusky City, where she died several years ago. It thus appears that the first wedding on the Reserve was *solemnized* by an apostate preacher, and the first child christened by a pagan Indian chief.

In 1798 Amzi Atwater, one of the exploring expeditions, selected his land on the north side of the Cuyahoga, in Mantua, where Mantua Station now is, though he did not become a settler till 1800.

It now appeared that there was in the N. W. territory 5000 free white male inhabitants, which, by the Ordinance of 1787, entitled them to a territorial Legislature. Before this the Governor and three judges, appointed by Congress, possessed all power, legislative judicial and executive. A more arbitrary, despotic form of government was never devised. The people were now entitled to elect delegates to a territorial legislature, but the right of voting was restricted to freeholders in fee simple of fifty acres of land. No others were entitled to vote. The Governor also had a VETO power, by which he could annul any law the legislature might enact, The Governor issued his proclamation directing that on the 2nd Tuesday of October, [then] next an election be held for the purpose of electing one person to represent each county in a territorial legislature, At this election the whole Reserve gave forty-two votes.

The year 1799 was a noted era in the history of the Reserve. William W. Williams erected a grist mill at the falls of Tinker creek in Newburgh, Cuyahoga Co., where the inhabitants could get their corn ground. Before this they had to pound or grate it, or go to Steele & Norton's mill at Bloomfield, Ontario co., N. Y. Another remarkable event of this year was an addition to the population, by the birth of Horace Daniels, the first white male child born on the Reserve. He was born in Boardman, Mahoning co., on Christmas day. He will be remembered by all the old settlers, as a leading man in Gilbert's stage line, from Cleveland to Pittsburgh. It was also remarkable for the increase of population by emigrauts from the east, Abraham S. Honey was the first settler in Portage co. He settled in Mantua, Benjamin Tappan, commonly called Judge Tappan, came to Ravenna in June, 1799, and in a letter to me he says that on the night before he arrived at Ravenna he staid at the house of Abraham Honey. As he had a house there in June, 1799, he prob-

ably came there in 1798. This was the first house in what is now Portage Co. Benjamin Tappan, of Northampton, Massachusetts owned about two-thirds of Ravenna township, then called Town 3, Range 8. He arrived in June, and erected a cabin in the south-east part of the township, near Campbellsport. His was the second house in the county. John Ward arrived in 1802, the third settler.

Settlers now flocked in. In July, Lewis Ely, Lewis Day, and Daniel Diver arrived in Deerfield, in a wagon,—which was the first wagon that ever crossed "the mountains." Caleb Atwater settled in Atwater township, Benjamin Tappan in Ravenna, David Daniels in Palmyra, and Martin Sheldon in Aurora.

The year 1800 is memorable for the first organization of a civil government of the Western Reserve. Gov. St. Clair, in July, 1800, issued his proclamation. erecting the whole Reserve east of the Cuyahoga, into a county called Trumbull, with the county seat at Warren. Warren had become an important place, having four log cabins and sixteen inhabitants.

In February John Campbell, (afterwards known as Gen. Campbell,) Alva Day, (afterwards known as Judge Day) and Joel Thrall left Connecticut on foot and arrived in Deerfield on the 4th of March. On the 7th of November following Campbell was married to Sarah Ely, a daughter of Lewis Ely. They were married by Calvin Austin, of Warren, who, in company with Calvin Pease, then a young lawyer, but afterwards Judge of the Supreme Court, came to the wedding on foot, there being no roads. This was the first marriage in Portage Co. The first white child born in the county was Eunice Harmon, a daughter of Judge Elias Harmon, who was born in July 1800, in Mantua township, on arriving at womanhood she married Simon Sheldon, and died in 1849. The next was Polly Day, a daughter of Judge Alva Day, of Deerfield—born August 22d, 1800. She was the second white child born in the county, and the first born in Deerfield. She afterwards became the wife of Jeduthan Farnum, and died many years ago. Mr. Farnum still survives—being the oldest resident of Deerfield. Arner May Hudson, daughter of Deacon David Hudson, and now the wife of Harvey Baldwin of Hudson next put in an appearance. She was born on the 29th day of October, 1800. All of these were born in "the *North-Western Territory*," before Ohio had an existence.

In 1801 a brighter future dawned on the Reserve. Before this the nearest Post Office was at Pittsburgh. There the whole Reserve had to go nearly an hundred miles to deposit or receive their letters.

Not only was it without the means of information, but the high officers at Washington seemed to be ignorant of where it was; for in a correspondence between Capt. Elijah Wadsworth, of Warren, and the General Post Office, a letter to him from the Postmaster General is directed to "Capt. Elijah Wadsworth, Warren, in the Connecticut Reserve, near Pittsburgh, Pa." This is probably the first and last time that Warren, Trumbull co., was located "near Pittsburgh."

In October, 1801 a mail route was established from Pittsburgh to Warren—the mail to be carried *on his back*, once in two weeks, by a man named Gilson. This was a great relief to the people of the Reserve. The census of 1800 showed that the eastern division of the North-Western Territory had a population of over 42,000, sufficient, under the ordinance of 1787 to form a State Government. On the 30th of May Connecticut ceded her *Political* claim over it, and the President executed a Patent, or deed of the fee in the soil to that State. In April, 1802, Congress passed an Act to enable the eastern division of the N, W. Territory to form a Constitution and State Government—the people to vote on the 2d Tuesday of October 1802. The members for a convention were elected and met at Chilicothe on the first day of Nov., 1802, and in three weeks formed a better constitution than, with all the legal tinkering, we have had since.

Ohio, hitherto an almost unknown region, now took her place as a free, sovereign and independent state. Spanish, French, English, Indian and all conflicting claims removed. On this anniversary she stands proudly erect, the peer, and equal of the noblest States in the Union.

But, although Ohio thus proudly stood forth, Portage county had not yet in an appearance. It was not till an Act of the Legislaiure, passed Feb. 10, 1808, that all that part of the tract, or parcel of Trumbull co., lying west of the 5th Range, was erected into a new county called Portage. In April, of the same year the Town plat of Ravenna was surveyed into village lots—the corners of the lots, and streets designated by marks on the trees, with which it was covered—the whole plat being then a wilderness. John Boosinger, who died recently in Brimfield, underbrushed the plat.

In 1809 the first house on the town plat of Ravenna was erected on the ground now occupied by Waterman and Frazer's stores, just east of the Exchange. It was built for William Tappan, a brother of Benjamin. Just east of that was a considerable pond of water, so large that canoes were on it, and it was a great resort for wild ducks. It is now converted into pleasant gardens.

By the law creating Portage county [illegible] held at the house of Benjamin Tappan [illegible] east corner of Ravenna, in August, 1808. [illegible] was to meet the house took fire and was [illegible] ing the Judges, consisting of Calving Pe[illegible] liam Wetmore, Amzi Atwater, and Aaron [illegible] bled around the smoking ruins of Tap[illegible] court, and then adjourned to the house [illegible] ard J. Thompson now lives. This term [illegible] 23d, 1808. At this term the Commissio[illegible] lature to locate the county seat reporte[illegible] 1809 Gen. Joshua Woodward removed f[illegible] na, and built a log cabin on the south-e[illegible] public square, where the old Exchange [illegible] ward of Kent was born—being the first [illegible] plat. For this extraordinary feat Wil[illegible] with a village lot in the south-west part [illegible] people elected him Sheriff, and re-elec[illegible] Gideon Granger was Post Master Gener[illegible] route from Warren to Ashtabula, Pain[illegible] and through the wilderness where Ra[illegible] then to Pittsburgh—the mail to be carri[illegible] For this favor the U. S. received $10.2[illegible] carrying the mail. Some thought that [illegible] a large amount of land in Palmyra, which [illegible] through, had some influence—but wha[illegible] highly beneficial to the people.

On the organization of the count[illegible] cattle in the county 1239—horses 246. [illegible] 24,584—cattle 26,271—horses 8,170. W[illegible] four cents a bushel—and a leaf I have [illegible] the prices the people were paying for [illegible] "3 yards calico at $1.06, $3.18; 1 yd. [illegible] putty at 50c, 40c; 1 pound nails 30c; 1 p[illegible] bric $1.25; 1 paper pins 37½; 1 pound of [illegible] tea at $3.00, $1.50." Such were the pri[illegible] a bushel.

But I am tiring your patience. Pl[illegible] close—leaving your brilliant career, s[illegible] county, in agriculture, and mechanic a[illegible] and virtues in peace, to the one who [illegible] Centennial.

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